

*Application No. 10/715,481
Amendment dated September 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 14, 2006*

*Docket No. 0505-1257P
Art Unit: 3616
Page 9 of 13*

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Four sheets of Replacement Drawings are attached in order to label FIGS. 22(a) through 25 as "BACKGROUND ART".

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 8-10, and 17-20 are amended and claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 19 and 20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 19 and 20 have been withdrawn. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 19 has been amended to now depend from independent claim 1. According, when independent claim 1 is found to be allowable, the Applicants respectfully requested that the Examiner also examine and allow withdrawn claims 19 and 20.

Drawings

In response to the objection to the drawings, four sheets of Replacement Drawings are attached in order to label FIGS. 22(a) through 25 as "BACKGROUND ART".

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 3, 2004 and September 7, 2004.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-11, 13, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1, 240,506 in view of Uchiyama et al. (U.S. 6,286,619);

claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,240,506 in view of Uchiyama et al.; and

claims 5-7 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,240,506 in view of Uchiyama et al. and further in view of Smyers (U.S. 4,546,997).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, each of independent claims 1 and 10 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a power transmission for a vehicle including *inter alia*

the reduction gear including a plurality of gears each having an axis on a common plane.

The Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in each independent claims 1 and 10 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including GB 1240506 and Uchiyama et al.

In contrast to the present invention, as can be seen in GB 1,240, 506 page 2, lines 8-10, gear 17 is mounted below gear 16 and gear 5 is mounted below gear 4; thus they cannot have axes on the same common plane. Further, as can be seen in Uchiyama et al. FIG. 5, the axes of the gears are not on the same common plane.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 10 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including GB 1,240, 506 and Uchiyama et al.

Therefore, independent claim 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 8, 9, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended, and dependent claims 21 and 22 have been added.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, as well as for the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

All claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
Date: SEPT. 14, 2006
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
#43368
f.o.

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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Attachment: Four sheets of Replacement Drawings (FIGS. 22(a) through 25)